

David J. Bradley, Clerk

The record shows that throughout the litigation and settlement, all parties were represented by experienced counsel. Settlement was achieved in an adversarial context and negotiated at arm's length, in a process that included mediation. The settlement provisions are fair and reasonable, and reflect a reasonable compromise on bona-fide disputes about liability and any amount due

under the Act. The settlement avoids the necessity, expense, delay, inconvenience, and uncertainty of continued litigation. In exchange for the sums each of the five plaintiffs will receive, each plaintiff agrees to execute and return a release of claims in the manner negotiated by the parties and supply all relevant tax forms to counsel for HydroChem.

The court also finds that the attorneys' fees provisions are fair and reasonable, and separately approves them. The court approves the settlement and dismisses this case with prejudice.

A version of the settlement agreement that redacts the amounts paid to each plaintiff and redacts the fee agreement must be filed in the public case CM/ECF file. The unredacted agreement may be filed under seal.

SIGNED on January 23, 2020, at Houston, Texas.

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Lee H. Rosenthal", written over a horizontal line.

Lee H. Rosenthal
Chief United States District Judge